



ROADRUNNER EXPRESS

February
2020

Foster Elementary
Jefferson County Public Schools

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Principal's Page

Dear Foster Families,

It has been exciting and overwhelming to see the number of people wanting to be a part of this incredible dual language opportunity. We have a full Dual Language Kindergarten going into next year and have wait lists for both English and Spanish openings. The Field of Dreams quote "If you build it, they will come" continues to ring true as we continue to build and become a PK-8 Dual Language Option school.

Our second meeting of the Building Design Advisory Group was held. Representatives of the staff, parents, and community were present to advocate and give feedback to designs. We have three more meetings set through February. Once we have some solid ideas, I will share those with the community. The plan is that construction will begin next October and be completed July 2021 which is really exciting!

Thank you to parents for participating in conferences and for feeding the staff one of the nights. The Family dance was great fun and STEM night was educational and interesting. Thank you 4th grade teacher Stephanie Hultine for your dedication to STEM and for creating an incredible STEM night for our students to participate in. Thank you also to the parents and staff who supported learning that night, and a special thank you to Christina Hubbard for overseeing and running the silent auction. We appreciate you!

In Peace, Leigh

Accountability Committee

We hope you will join us for our Accountability meeting which will be on Thursday, March 5th at 3:00 in Leigh's office. We will give you some updates on our school UIP, building committee, and more. Please join us!

March
2020

- 6 . . PTA Mtg. 9-10AM
- 9 . . PTA Mtg. 6-7PM
- 23-27 . NO School—Spring Break



CMAS

CMAS testing for 3-7th grades begins the week of March 16 and completes the week of April 24. CMAS assessments give us important information about how individuals and groups of students are doing, and provide data that helps us improve our instruction. Individual student data is shared with families at Fall conferences. If you would like to opt your student out of this assessment or have any questions, please contact Shari Crist @ 303.982.1680 or by email scristbr@jeffco.k12.co.us.

We ask that you please do not schedule appointments for students during their testing window; we have scheduled the majority of the assessments in the morning to make this easier for you, so it is very important that your student is not tardy on these days.

The schedule is as follows:

5th grade 3/17-3/19 morning, Language Arts
4th grade 3/17-3/19 morning, Language Arts

5th grade 3/31-4/2 morning, Math
4th grade 3/31-4/2 morning, Math

5th grade 4/7-4/9 morning, Science
3rd grade 4/7-4/9 morning, Language Arts
6th grade 4/7-4/9 morning, Language Arts/Math*
7th grade 4/7-4/9 afternoon, Language Arts/Math*

3rd grade 4/14-4/16 morning, Math
4th grade 4/14-4/16 afternoon, Social Studies
6th grade 4/14-4/16, morning, Language Arts/Math*
7th grade 4/14-4/16 afternoon, Language Arts/Math*

6th and 7th graders are divided into testing groups; homeroom teachers will be able to share specifics about when your student is testing.

CMAS

CMAS

Kindergarten

Wow, February sure raced by! It was filled with fun ~ celebrating the 100th Day with all the creative projects, and sharing cards and treats on Valentine's Day. Also, we really appreciated seeing everyone at our Spring Parent/Teacher Conferences.

Two March reminders: report cards will go home on February 28th. Please remember to return the envelope signed and empty. Spring Break begins March 23 with students returning Monday, March 30th.

During March we will be doing two **Reading Units**, "Readers Relate to Characters," where we are focusing on making personal connections to text and learning about making inferences in our reading and "Falling in love with informal text" where we will be doing some research. Our two **Writing Units**, "How Authors add Details" and "Informational: All About Books" will help students learn to ask questions and gather information about a topic and then present those facts as an interesting product using text and pictures. In **Math**, our current Unit, "Partners, Problem Drawings, and Tens" will continue with students learning to:

- extend the counting sequence to 100

- instantly recognize and represent numbers 6-10 as being composed of a 5-group and more ones (conceptual subitizing)

- use concrete materials and drawings to compose and decompose numbers 11-19 into ten ones and some more and quantities 2-10 into partner numbers

- identify which of two groups has more than (or fewer than or the same amount as) the other using matching, counting, and knowledge of number sequence

- act out addition and subtraction situations, including when both addends are unknown, by representing quantities with math drawings and equations

- explore attributes of 3D shapes

Thank you for your support!

Ms. Melissa, Ms. Shannon, and Ms. Alma





First Grade News

Our students worked very hard on their economics unit. They used the classroom money they earned to buy student made crafts.

Our next science/PBL unit will be about animal features, we will be showcasing this at our First Grade program April 23th. We had an amazing time at our Field Trip to the Zoo. Thank you to all the parents that came to chaperone.

In math, we worked very hard on adding tens and practicing our word problems. Our next unit of math is on data, graphing, and then on to telling time to the hour and half hour.

In writing, we have been working on our How-To stories and onto other nonfiction topics. Students are loving researching their topic of choice.

Don't forget to make sure your students bring their iPads charged all the time.

Thanks again for coming out for conferences,
it's always a pleasure to see you and discuss your students.

Miss. Brie and Mrs. Rosa



2ND GRADE

Dear Second Grade Families,

What a busy month we've had and March brings more exciting things yet to come.

First of all, thank you for attending parent teacher conferences and all of your support. We also thank you for sending the field trip entrance fee to the Arvada Center so promptly. The field trip is scheduled for March 3rd.

Our biggest news is that we have started our next Project Based Learning Unit on the Weather! Students are investigating the question: **How do we as meteorologists analyze and report the cause of weather and how it affects living organisms and the world around them?** All students have picked a weather topic to thoroughly research and they have become an expert meteorologist! Please join us on Thursday, March 12th for our Second Grade Weather Presentations! The weather theme has been on-going throughout all of our content areas this month.

In literacy we are asking questions, reading for information and writing a research report about the weather.

In math we will be graphing the weather and we have been working on two and three digit subtraction.

In science we have learned about weather tools, the clouds, the seasons, and weather patterns.

And in Spanish and English language development classes students have been digging into the season of winter.

It has been a busy month! Please don't forget to read at home with your child and practice adding and subtracting numbers to 100!

Sincerely,
Ms. Hollie, Ms. Elena and Ms. Christine



Happy St. Patrick's Day



Third Grade

During parent teacher conferences many parents inquired about how they could help their students at home with schoolwork. Even though Foster is a no homework school we encourage reading daily and practicing math facts. According to the article, 10 Staggering Statistics About Struggling and Reading Growth on the We are Teachers Website.

"Some researchers estimate that children learn 1 new word for every 1,000 words read. Between kindergarten and twelfth grade, students with an average daily reading time of 30 or more minutes are projected to encounter 13.7 million words - so they should learn around 13,700 new vocabulary words from independent reading practice alone. In contrast, students who read less than 15 minutes per day would learn only 1,500 new vocabulary words from reading. That's a vocabulary gap of 12,200 words!"

See links below for article and more interesting reading statistics. <https://www.weareteachers.com/staggering-statistics-about-struggling-readers-and-reading-growth/>
<https://www.renaissance.com/2018/01/17/blog-6-more-minutes-struggling-readers-reading-practice-growth/>

In addition to reading, you can practice basic addition and multiplication facts with flash cards.

CMAS (Colorado Measures of Academic Success)

Your 3rd grader will be taking the CMAS test in the month of March. More information and dates will be coming soon!

What we are exploring in 3rd grade

Reading - We will make connections between fiction texts. We will become better readers by making inferences and finding the main idea of text that we read.

Writing - We are making our voices heard through opinion writing.

Math - We will dive into two-step word problems.

Social Studies/Science - in social studies we are wrapping up our economics unit. In science we will experiment with matter in many forms.

Important Dates

Spring Break - March 23rd - 27th

Ms. Nikki, Ms. Paola and Ms. Whitaker





4TH GRADE

4th Grade News!

February has gone by in a flash. First, we want to thank our parents for coming to parent teacher conferences at the beginning of this month. Our students have been learning a lot about Colorado history and they had a great time at the Tesoro Cultural Center/ The Fort. Students also enjoyed playing the Building Colorado Cities game with the Golden History Museum. Students worked in teams to weigh the opportunity cost, incentives, and risks to make the same choices that historic Colorado cities faced.

In writing, we are working on how to answer a writing prompt and how to use evidence to support our writing.

In reading, we are working on breaking down poems, prefixes/suffixes, theme, and idioms.

In math, students are working hard on fractions and getting familiar with equivalencies, ordering and representing fractions with different models, as well as adding and subtracting fractions and mix numbers. We also learn measurement, area and perimeter for about a week, and then went back to more fractions.

Next month, students will be learning all about government using Drama with our guest teacher Ms. Rosey Waters.

Dates to remember:

March 17-19 CMAS testing: ELA/CSLA

March 23-27 Spring Break

March 31, 4/1 and 4/2-- CMAS testing Math

April 14, 15 and 16 --CMAS Social Studies

Mrs. Vicky eortiz@jeffco.k12.co.us

Ms. Stephanie shultine@jeffco.k12.co.us



5th Grade

Hello 5th grade families,

In math, we are wrapping up a unit on area and volume and beginning a unit about operations and word problems. Please continue to help your students practice their multiplication (and division) facts daily. This can be done with flashcards, on blank paper or using an iPad. They should be able to do math facts up to 12 quickly.

In reading and writing, we are in the middle of a chapter book titled “Esperanza Rising” and students continue to explore a variety of literary techniques and comprehension strategies. Please ask your student about their learning!

In science, we are exploring living creatures.

As always, please reach out with any questions, suggestions or ideas!

A few reminders:

CMAS testing is coming up. We will send home dates once they're confirmed.

Tiffany Alvarez (Traditional) - tiffany.alvarez@jeffco.k12.co.us

Kristin Steele (Dual - English) - kristin.steele@jeffco.k12.co.us

Julie Cole (Dual - Spanish) - julie.cole@jeffco.k12.co.us





English Language Arts Mrs. Vanessa Gonzalez vagonzal@jeffco.k12.co.us

Happy February! I hope you are all staying warm. I also hope this newsletter finds you all well! Thank you to ALL of my students for the amazing birthday week! I am so glad you are all a part of my life. I could not ask for a better literacy teammate either, Ms. Vale.

In March, we will have 2 cycles of class work. When the class work does not get finished in class it becomes homework. You should have enough time to complete it in class!

Here are the units for March:

6th: Informational: Newspaper or Periodical

7th: Informational: Feature Article, Information Book, Documentary or Transcript

CMAS will begin after Spring Break, please be sure to be rested, eat breakfast and spend some time doing the things you enjoy.

Have an amazing Spring break! I will miss you all!

Spanish Language Arts Ms. Valentina Lowitsch vlowitsc@jeffco.k12.co.us

Hello! Hope you are all having a fantastic time!

6th grade We are still working on the unit Self Esteem and Self Aware. Students are researching what the world is offering us to make good choices.

7th grade This is still the unit about Technology and students are studying about the advantages and disadvantages of using technology as a way of communication.

Remember: The sign of good parenting is not the child's behavior,
the sign of truly great parenting is the parents behavior.

By Andy Smithson

Math Michael Chavez michael.chavez@jeffco.k12.co.us

Parents are an essential need to student education. We want all our students to succeed in life. It has been a pleasure working with the students this year. Students are beginning to conceptualize how math works. I believe that students are ready for any challenges that come across them.

Thanks a lot for all your help Mr. C

Ciencias-Science Ms. Nidya Caviedes nidya.caviedes@jeffco.k12.co.us

Happy March!

6th: We will begin everything related to the climate and environment, moving from basic to more complex processes in the ecosystem, emphasizing not contaminating our planet.

7th: After having learned the functioning of some systems of the human body we will emphasize in learning how to care for ourselves knowing what happens in the human body with the use of drugs and the importance to take the right decisions in life.

middle SCHOOL

Social Studies

Mrs. Carissa Soto Rodriguez

carissa.sotorodriguez@jeffco.k12co.us

<https://tinyurl.com/MsCarissa> (Quick link to my website)

In 6th grade we have been collaborating with Rosey Waters from Imagination Makers to learn about the economic systems and governments of the countries in the Western Hemisphere through drama. Our overall goal for this unit is for students to learn how diverse people and nations succeed and to empower students to become informed and active members of a global society.

In 7th grade students have been investigating various types of governments and civic duties across the Eastern Hemisphere. We are now beginning our unit on resources, trade and profit in the Eastern Hemisphere. In this unit students will become economic thinkers and study the effects of local and global supply and demand on local economies.

Counseling Center

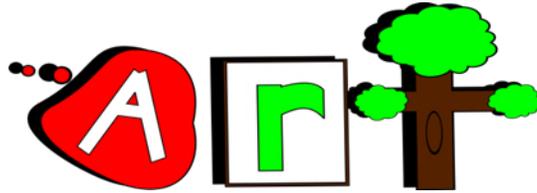
Ms. Nicole nicole.head@jeffco.k12.co.us

With CMAS quickly approaching, now is a great time to talk to your middle schooler about some basic test taking strategies that can help them manage testing anxiety. These strategies can help with the CMAS and any other in school assessments. Below are a few strategies, but please reach out, or ask your student to reach out, if you'd like more ideas or support.

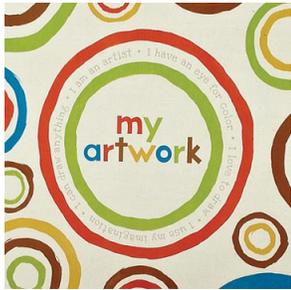
- Plan a few positive things you can think about yourself when you start to feel stressed or tired. An example would be, "Today I'm going to do my best, and that's great!"
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- Remember to focus on what you can control: Get good sleep, eat a healthy breakfast, be on time to school, bring a comfy sweatshirt, etc...
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- Practice deep breathing ahead of time. Breathe in for 4 counts and out for 4 counts. This is helpful when you feel yourself rushing, running out of energy, or if you're feeling stress.
-

In Wellness Wednesdays, we have been discussing positive and negative peer pressure. Please talk to your student about peer pressure they feel and help them to role play and strategize ways to accept positive peer pressure and stay true to themselves when confronted with negative peer pressure.





Annnddd here we go!



It is a new year and we are hitting the ground running. We are in the process of creating some extraordinary work. In the next few weeks and months, you will begin to see more artwork throughout our school (so keep your eyes peeled).

We are lucky to have so many talented student artists here at Foster and it is time to show off some artwork. There is currently one show at Red Rocks Community College and this is an invitation for you all to join us for this art show.



There are still plenty of spots for our Washington D.C. trip. If you have any questions please give me a call or send me an email.



Music Notes

Honor choir information coming soon! This year it will be open to 4th and 5th graders. Space is limited. I will be sending home information with interested students. Students and families must be able to commit to all rehearsals and concert. This is a wonderful opportunity to experience a large multi-age choir!

In music classes we will continue to develop student musicianship.

Kinder- steady beat, rhythm, ensemble work, head voice, explore musical ideas.

1st grade: beat/rhythm, 4 beat melodic/rhythmic patterns, conducting cues, exploring musical ideas, changing tempo, introduction, pitched/non-pitched instruments, phrase.

2nd grade: 1 chord accompaniments, 4/8 beat patterns, solfege, follow dynamics and tempo changes, verse/refrain, theory of music and explore musical ideas.

3rd grade: Solfege, theory, dynamics/tempo/meter, largo and allegro, treble clef, rondo form, vocal/instrumental techniques.

4th grade: 3 part canons, Accelerando/ritardando, solfege, D.C.al fine/D.S., theory, dynamics/tempo/meter, major/minor, Mezzo piano/mezzo forte, recorder, vocal/instrumental techniques.

5th grade: accidentals, diatonic scale patterns, conductor cues, Improvisation, recorders, slur, vocal/instrumental techniques.

Ms. Allison Bequette





Fit Bits: News from the Foster P.E. Department!

Hello Foster Families,

We have officially kicked off Kids Heart Challenge with the American Heart Association at Foster Elementary! Our students will be learning the importance of helping others while keeping their own hearts healthy. Today in PE the students participated in an exciting WARRIOR CHALLENGE presentation featuring our heart hero friends that remind us how to keep our hearts healthy.

We will be sending home information with your student, but we wanted to make it as easy as possible for the students that choose to participate. Please direct all questions to Ms. Sammy in the gym!

To get started download the Kids Heart Challenge App ([App Store](#) for iPhone or [Google Play](#) for Android) or Visit www.heart.org/khc to join our school's team.

Meet this year's Heart Heroes: [2019-2020 HEART HERO INTRODUCTIONS!](#)

PLUS this year, Foster Elementary is doing something really special for Kids Heart Challenge as the American Heart Association teams up with the Denver Nuggets. **Any student who raises at least \$50 to help us save lives through downloading the Kids Heart Challenge app or on the KHC website will get discounted tickets to a Denver Nuggets game (March 30th or April 3rd) and will get to shoot hoops on the court after the game for being lifesavers!** Thank you for helping this important mission and also learning how you can keep your heart healthy too!

Stay healthy, stay happy!

Ms. Sammy Chumacero



From the Library



Digital Citizenship topics will be addressed throughout the year to support students in the safe use of technology. The topic for February was Relationships and Communication. Students explored and discussed strategies for staying safe when communicating digitally. The digital citizenship topic for March is Privacy and Security. Be sure to discuss these important topics with your child.

[February Family Letter/English: Relationships and Communication](#)

[February Family Letter/Spanish: Relationships and Communication](#)



Fifth and sixth grade students have been reading voraciously in preparation for our Battle of the Books! Teams of students participate by reading five or more selected titles and then compete against other school teams to answer questions related to their reading. Our two top Foster teams will go on to compete at the district level Battle of the Books to be held Monday, March 3, 5:00 p.m. at Rooney Ranch Elementary. This is a great opportunity for book lovers to participate in their favorite sport...reading!

The Arvada Area Spelling Bee was held at North Arvada Middle School. Violet Flores, 4th grade, placed second in this event. Congratulations go out to all of our participants.



If you are interested in purchasing an extended warranty for the school assigned Chromebook your child is using, please review the information linked below. The warranty provides coverage for accidental damage to devices that are otherwise the responsibility of families. The cost of an extended warranty is less than the cost of repairing one cracked screen!

[Chromebook Warranty \(English\)](#)

[Chromebook Warranty \(Spanish\)](#)

Teachers will be providing progress monitoring comments for ALP goals in January and February. Families will receive information related to how goals are being addressed in the classroom. If you are wondering how interventions are progressing, please talk with your child's teacher(s).





Reading Challenge Due: March 31st

Turn in your checklist by the due date for a chance to win a prize!

Read a book written by a woman.

Read a book with words and illustrations by the same person.

Read a nonfiction book about an accomplished woman.

Read a book with the title written in the form of a question.

Read aloud to your pet or to your favorite stuffed animal.

Make a bookmark inspired by one of your favorite books.

Read a Caldecott Medal- or Caldecott Honor-winning book.

Student Name: _____

Grade/Teacher: _____

Parent Signature: _____

